

March 27, 2023

**South Carolina:** February temperatures ranged from 0.1 to 4.9 degrees warmer than historical averages depending on location. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 1.1 inches in Berkeley County to 6.7 inches in Calhoun County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 16 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 100 percent of the state having no drought classification at the beginning of the month.

South Carolina temperatures fluctuated greatly from several days of freezing temperatures to warmer days above 80 degrees. The late freeze damaged some crops in the Upstate region. Rainfall was noted to have been adequate to slightly excessive in some areas. Fields were being prepped for spring planting with some farmers beginning to plant corn and tomatoes. The strawberry crop was reported to be looking good, although yield for strawberries in the Pee Dee region is anticipated to be less than usual due to diseases being prevalent in fields. Strawberries in the Lowcountry region were noted to coming in strong with good quality and yields. Peach producers were busy assessing the peach crop following several freeze events throughout the month. Some damage is anticipated in early-season varieties since they were already fruiting. Small grains were progressing well and on schedule. Most wheat was able to avoid damage from the last freeze. Pastures were reported to be greening up and cattle were noted to be in good condition.